

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are currently pending in this case.

Claims 1, 2, 5-11, and 14-22 are rejected.

Claims 3-4, 12-13, and 23-24 are objected to.

Claims 2-3, 11-12, 17-19, and 21-23 are canceled.

Claims 1, 4, 10, 13, 20, and 24 are amended.

No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 4-10, 13-16, 20, and 24 remain in the application for consideration.

In the Specification

The Specification has been amended as indicated above to correct minor informalities in the specification. No new matter has been added with these amendments.

In the Claims

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

Claims 1-2, 5, 10-11, 14, and 17-22 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,046,826 to Lu et al. (“Lu”) in view of Applicant’s Admitted Prior Art (“APA”).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations from allowable claim 3 and from intermediate claim 2. As claim 3 has been indicated as including allowable patentable subject matter, the Applicants submit that claim 1 is in proper form for allowance.

Claim 2 has been canceled; thus rendering the associated rejection moot.

Claim 5 depends from claim 1. Based at least in part on its dependency, the Applicants submit that claim 5 is likewise in proper form for allowance.

Claim 10 has been amended to include the limitations from allowable claim 12 and from intermediate claim 11. As claim 12 has been indicated as including allowable patentable subject matter, the Applicants submit that claim 10 is in proper form for allowance.

Claim 11 has been canceled; thus rendering the associated rejection moot.

Claim 14 depends from claim 10. Based at least in part on its dependency, the Applicants submit that claim 14 is likewise in proper form for allowance.

Claims 17-19 have been canceled; thus rendering the associated rejections moot.

Claim 20 has been amended to include the limitations from allowable claim 23 and from intermediate claims 21 and 22. As claim 23 has been indicated as including allowable

patentable subject matter, the Applicants submit that claim 20 is in proper form for allowance.

Claims 22-23 have been canceled; thus rendering the associated rejections moot.

Claims 6-8 and 15-16 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lu in view of APA and further in view of US Patent No. 6,891,328 to Nakamura (“Nakamura”).

Claims 6-8 and 15-16 depend from one of claims 1 and 10. As mentioned above, both claim 1 and claim 10 are in proper form for allowance. Thus, based at least in part on their dependency, the Applicants submit that claims 6-8 and 15-16 are likewise in proper form for allowance.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lu in view of APA and further in view of US Patent No. 3,973,342 to Gubela (“Gubela”).

Claim 9 depends from claim 1. As mentioned above, claim 1 is in proper form for allowance. Thus, based at least in part on its dependency, the Applicants submit that claim 9 is likewise in proper form for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-4, 12-13, and 23-24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

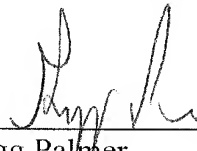
The Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the patentable subject matter of these claims. As indicated above, the limitations from claims 3, 12, and 23 have been respectively included in claims 1, 10, and 20 along with the limitations of the intervening claims. In addition, the claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of claims 1 and 2. As such, the Applicants submit that these claims are in proper form for allowance.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 4-10, 13-16, 20, and 24 of the application as amended is requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregg Palmer', is written over a horizontal line.

Gregg Palmer
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